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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

FEB 1 0 2004

In re application: Frazier et al.

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Serial No.: 09/692,346

Group Art Unit: 2153

Filed: October 19, 2000

Examiner: Edelman, Bradley E.

For: Method and Apparatus for Reliably Choosing a Master Network

Attorney Docket No.: AUS9-2000-0632-US1

Manager During Initialization of a **Network Computing System**

> Certificate of Transmission Under 37 C.F.R. \$ 1.8(a) I hereby certify this correspondence is being transmitted via facsimile to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandra, VA 22313-1450, facsimile number (703) 872-

9306, on February 10, 2004

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

No fees are believed to be required. If, however, any fees are required, I authorize the Commissioner to charge these fees which may be required to IBM Corporation Deposit Account No. 09-0447. No extension of time is believed to be necessary. If, however, an extension of time is required, the extension is requested, and I authorize the Commissioner to charge any fees for this extension to IBM Corporation Deposit Account No. 09-0447.

In response to the Office Action dated November 10, 2003, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

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